

Arts Education Task Force Update

March 15 meeting:

- The Arts Education Task Force held their second meeting on March 15, from 1-3 p.m. at Bismarck State College. A brief overview of the task force goals, action steps and long-range planning process was presented. In a discussion that followed this presentation, the task force members decided that the time frame for developing a long-range plan based on establishing a set of action steps for each goal was too lengthy. Members expressed their need to be able to accomplish a task within a reasonable time frame. The direction chosen by the members was to work on one action step at a time, then move on to another action step. Members identified the following action step (in conjunction with the goal – *Promote arts education in all North Dakota schools*) as the priority for their first task:

Action step

Develop a statewide database of email addresses for use as an electronic communication system to support the work of arts organizations, arts educators, artists and advocates across the state.

- Tanya Neumiller, Title 1 Program, Department of Public Instruction, presented information regarding President Bush's *No Child Left Behind* legislation that was passed in January 2002. A draft copy of changes that are pending are included in this mailing.

Update on database development project:

- The North Dakota Council on the Arts provided initial funding assistance to the North Dakota Arts Alliance/Alliance for Arts Education (NDAA) to initiate the coordination and facilitation of a database in compliance with the action step identified by the Arts Education Task Force
- The NDAA is working with Cloverfish, a Fargo web developer, to create a basic website and set up listserve capabilities. NDAA requests any current mailing lists that you might have be forwarded to the NDAA office, 1104 2nd Ave. S. Suite 315, Fargo, ND 58102. At this point, any suggestions can be forwarded to nodaa@hotmail.com. The site should be available this summer.
- The NDAA also applied for funding from the National Endowment for the Arts to continue development of a database and primary listserv for the purpose of accomplishing the three following objectives:
 - 1) to create a base of research supporting the value of the arts in education and to the community at large;

- 2) to provide a communication avenue (targeted listserv) for sharing ideas, concerns and issues; and
- 3) to provide a quick response network to disseminate advocacy information statewide.

Next task force meeting:

- The Arts Education Task Force will have their next meeting on Friday, September 13, from 1-3 p.m. at the Bismarck Public Schools main office located at 806 N. Washington Street. A reminder notice will be sent in August.
- Topic to be discussed will be the status of the database development. Please bring information for inclusion in the database (email addresses for the database).

Respectfully submitted by

Linda Ehreth, North Dakota Council on the Arts

Gail Benson, North Dakota Arts Alliance/Alliance for Arts Education